

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 141

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 20

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 141—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 20, 2010.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 141, Blakeslee. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim May 19, 2010, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis B and C are two of the leading killers in California; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne disease in the United States and in California; and

WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B or C infection promotes effective management or treatment of these infections, preventing disability, loss of productivity and income, and allowing people to live full, satisfying, and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Undetected and untreated hepatitis B or C infection can lead to disability or death; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 500,000 Californians with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know they are infected, and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer, or liver failure; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 125,000 California residents with hepatitis B infection do not know they are infected, and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver cancer, or liver failure; and

WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and C are the leading causes of liver failure requiring liver transplant; and

WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis B, the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of cancer made available to Americans; and

WHEREAS, The cost of hospitalizations for liver cancer and liver disease reached \$2 billion in California in 2007, mostly paid for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and accessible screening for hepatitis B and C, along with appropriate treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and C viral infection to individuals and to our community, financially, as well as physically and emotionally; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby proclaims May 19, 2010, as Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.